

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, April 29, 2005

OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE ARREST IN SERIAL ARSON CASE

Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey and DC Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson this week joined other local and federal officials in announcing an arrest in the string of arson fires that have occurred in the District and surrounding areas over the past two years. Thomas Sweatt of Southeast DC was arrested in Maryland on Wednesday by federal agents on a warrant in connection with some of the dozens of suspicious fires that had been set in the region. As of Friday, Sweatt had been charged in four fires and one attempted arson in the District and Maryland. The DC incidents include an attempted arson on Anacostia Avenue, NE, in September 2003; an October 2003 house fire on Otis Street, NE, and a September 2004 house fire on 30th Street, NE. No one was injured in these fires. Chief Ramsey expressed confidence that the suspect would be charged in the one fatal fire in the series of arsons: a June 5, 2003, blaze at 2800 Evarts Street, NE, that killed 85-year-old Lou Edna Jones. Mayor Williams stated, "On behalf of the people of this city, I send my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Lou Edna Jones. Dozens of families across the region lost their homes, their possessions and their entire sense of security during this stretch of terror. Nothing can undo their suffering." Added the Mayor, "I am extremely proud of our city's fire investigators and police officers who were part of the multi-jurisdictional arson task force—cooperation is critical in cases like this one, and the thousands of hours that they put into this case have paid off."

- ① Read the Mayor's complete statement at:
<http://www.dc.gov/news/statement.asp?id=166>

REWARD OF UP TO \$50,000 IS OFFERED AFTER 9-YEAR-OLD SHOOTING VICTIM DIES

After bravely clinging to life for more than a month after being shot outside his Northwest DC home, 9-year-old Donte Manning succumbed to his injuries this past week. Now, Chief Ramsey has authorized an enhanced reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction in this senseless crime. On Thursday, March 24, 2005, at approximately 9:46 pm, Donte Manning was playing with a group of children on the sidewalk in front of an apartment complex located at 2620 13th Street, NW. It was at this time that an unidentified gunman standing at the corner of 13th and Euclid Streets, NW, opened fire with a handgun in the direction of the children. While it was miraculous that no one else was struck by the gunfire, Donte was shot in the face. He was transported to Children's Hospital and admitted in critical condition. At 10:53 am on April 26, Donte Manning was pronounced dead. MPDC detectives have been vigorously investigating the crime since March; officers were back out in the community distributing flyers this past week. Chief Ramsey decided to double the usual reward in a homicide case—from \$25,000 to up to \$50,000—in the hopes of generating additional leads from the community.

- ① Read more at:
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3170>
- ① In a statement following Donte's death Mayor Williams said, "It is hard to imagine how the perpetrators of this act could so freely take away the gift of life. I renew my call for individuals in the community to come forward and work with the police and prosecutors to bring the killer to justice." Complete statement at:
<http://dc.gov/mayor/news/statement.asp?id=165&mon=200504>

FOLLOWING SHOOTING DEATH OF TEEN IN SOUTHEAST, MPDC REMINDS COMMUNITY ABOUT DC'S CURFEW LAW

The MPDC reminds young people, their families and the community at large that the Department is enforcing DC's curfew law in an attempt to keep teenagers safe and out of harm's way. As of April 23, MPDC officers had processed a total of 741 curfew violators so far this year. When added to the more than 1,200 curfews written in 2004, there have been approximately 2,000 curfew violators taken off the streets in the past 16 months alone. In DC, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 11 pm on Sunday through Thursday nights and continues until 6 am the following day. On weekend nights, curfew begins at 12:01 am, and ends at 6 the next morning. (During the months of July and August only, curfew hours are 12:01 am to 6 am, seven nights a week.) Under the law, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within DC during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities, such as work, school, religious or civic activities. Most violators are processed at one of two curfew centers, at Douglas Junior High School in Southeast and Shaw Junior High School in Northwest.

WITH THEFTS FROM AUTO A CONTINUING PROBLEM, MPDC ENCOURAGES MOTORISTS TO PROTECT THEIR PROPERTY

While overall crime continues to decline in DC, the District faces an ongoing problem with the crime of theft from auto—primarily thieves breaking into vehicles to steal cell phones, briefcases, laptop computers and other items left behind by motorists. Over the last 30 days, thefts from auto are up 8 percent citywide, with the Third and Fourth police districts particularly hard hit. So far this year, thefts from auto are up 26 percent in 3D and 22 percent in 4D. The frustrating thing about this particular crime is that it is almost always preventable. If more motorists did not leave their valuables behind, in plain sight inside their parked vehicles—and instead locked them in the trunk or took their valuables with them—the incidence of theft from auto could be dramatically reduced in DC. Thieves generally won't waste their time breaking into autos that don't have valuables in plain sight. The best way to prevent theft from auto is to always keep valuables out of sight. Never leave money, cell phones, briefcases, purses, suitcases or small electronic devices (portable audio players, personal assistants, even tapes and CDs) in your car in plain view. Take these items with you, or secure them—all the time, every time.

NEWS & NOTES

Talk with Chief Ramsey this Week. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls and emails on two media programs this week: "News Talk," from 4-5 pm, on Wednesday, May 4, on News Channel 8; and "Ask the Chief," from 10-11 am, on Thursday, May 5, on WTOP radio. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1245,q,548950.asp>.

March Court Reports. Each month, the US Attorney's Community Prosecution Unit publishes a report containing a summary of significant cases that were prosecuted in each police district during the previous month. March reports are now available at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html.

Get MPDC News via Email. Register with DC.Gov to receive email notifications of all news releases issued by the MPDC. Details at <http://dc.gov/registration/register.asp>.

MPDC Website Update. The MPDC has migrated its website to a new database-driven platform that is consistent with the rest of the dc.gov site. The web address (www.mpdc.dc.gov) and look-and-feel remain that same. But if you have bookmarked pages on the site, you may need to update your "favorites." If you notice any dead links or other problems, please e-mail kaylin.junge@dc.gov.

- ① Get the details on DC's curfew law and the MPDC's enforcement strategy at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547375,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,|.asp#enforced

- ① Attention to the curfew law was renewed this past week following the fatal shooting of a 16-year-old boy on Sunday at 2 am as he sat in a vehicle on Minnesota Avenue, SE. Details on this crime, including the reward, are at:

<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3165>.

- ① Residents who see possible curfew violators are encouraged to call the District's 3-1-1 non-emergency number, with a good description of the individuals and the location.

- ① Get more tips on preventing theft from auto at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547816,mpdcNav_GID,1551,asp#auto

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 4/29/05
◆ 2005: 58	
◆ 2004: 63	
◆ % Change: -7.9%	
◆ Closure Rate: 50.9% (31 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 4/23/05
◆ Total: 924	
◆ Drugs: 184	
◆ Weapons: 19	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 14	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 33	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 4/23/05
◆ Arrests: 36	
◆ Curfew Violations: 42	
◆ Truants: 113	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 4/27/05
◆ April: 148	
◆ 2005 Total: 850	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 4/29/05
◆ 2005: 15	
◆ 2004: 21	
◆ % Change: -28.6%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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